Foggy Bottom News

November 2003

Published by the citizens of Foggy Bottom and the West End

Volume 46, No. 2

Point-**GW Responds to Cocome Column**

Twice a year The George Washington University provides enrollment data to the community and zoning authorities that includes numbers such as the size of our Foggy Bottom student population and the number of beds we provide to house our students.

A look at the University's most recent report in spring 2003 shows that the fulltime undergraduate population on the Forgy Bottom campus was 7,353 (fall 2002 was 8,066), far below the 10,100 that was mentioned in Ron Cocome's "From the President" column in the October 2003 issue.

In addition, our total enrollment (which includes graduate and undergraduate, fulltime and parttime students) on the Foggy Bottom campus was 17,240 for spring 2003 (fall 2002 was 18,321), well below the Board of Zoning Adjustment's mandated cap of 20,000 and significantly less than the figure of "22,000+" that Cocome claims. His number more closely reflects GW's total enrollment on all our campuses, including the Mount Vernon Campus on Foxhall Road, N.W., and several locations in Virginia.

As for housing our students, GW provided beds for 74% of fulltime undergraduates in the fall of 2002. This includes beds in residence halls one or two blocks from campus that did not displace long-term residents, as Cocome stated. The D.C. Court of Appeals recently ruled that these residence halls were legal under District zoning regulations and that the BZA was arbitrary in not permitting the University to count them in the short term in meeting its requirement of housing 70% of fulltime undergraduates on campus.

We anticipate that when the final enrollment is determined for this fall we will again house greater than 70% of fulltime undergraduates on campus. We will make that information public as soon as we have it.

GW also has an aggressive campaign to further increase the number of beds on campus. Within the past two years we have added 537 beds. Currently, a residence hall that will contain 728 beds is under construction and will be completed in 2004. A separate residence hall that will offer 530 beds has been submitted to government authorities for approval. In total, these projects will add 1,795 new beds.

Over the last two years, the University has attempted repeatedly to share these facts with the Advisory Committee mandated by the BZA's Foggy Bottom Campus Plan order. According to the BZA, the Advisory Committee was to meet quarterly and consist of five representatives of the University and five representatives chosen by community groups, including the Foggy Bottom Association. Unfortunately, the community groups have consistently refused to meet.

We are hopeful this group can soon gather and share this important information.

Bob Ludwig Interim Director of Media Relations The George Washington University

continues its legal maneuvering, while ever adding to its tee while the Courts are still reviewing these latest appeals of the Campus Plan.

To hear the university tell the tale, its enrollment is not really increasing and any negative impact on our residential neighborhood is imaginary. All I ask is that you look around you.

> Ron Cocome FBA President

HPRB Again Delays Columbia Hospital Project

Developer to Speak at **October FBA Meeting**

By Ron Cocome

On October 2 the D.C. Historic Preservation Review Board held its eighth meeting on the proposed Columbia Hospital project. It once again delayed final approval.

In a perfect example of abuse of power by a public agency, the Chair and one Board Member, with the assent of the others, continued to involve themselves in matters over which the Board has no statutory authority. From earlier arguments of where shade from trees fell across the

building, now to the height of those trees and the size of window railings, this Board continues to run amuck.

The review has devolved into a matter of personal taste and opinion on new construction—not on the historic building—by people who do not live in our community. In fact, the staff member assigned to the project does not even live in the District.

Not satisfied with doing

HPRB, to page 6

Update

ZC to Meet on New **Zoning Classification**

On Thursday, November 13, the Zoning Commission will hold a hearing on a proposed "text amendment" to allow a "High Density Residential Retail Overlay District" which would allow high-rise residential development with "neighborhoodserving retail, service and accessory office uses."

An earlier version of this overlay was proposed but was postponed pending further study. A new set of regulations is being considered with extensive requirements for the use of retail in buildings developed under the overlay if adopted.

Update, to page 2

—And Counterpoint student numbers. It would be **Just Look Around You** wholly inappropriate for the FBA to meet with GWU as a part of the Advisory Commit-Responding to my article does not include university-

in last month's FBNews, GWU continues to manipulate the numbers. The 22,100 figure of student enrollment comes directly from university sources. The enrollment cap is based on actual enrollment—the number of bodies-not "fulltime equivalency" (FTE) or any other such calculation.

The campus plan also

owned off-campus housing in its mandate. Mr. Ludwig casually refers to this off-campus housing as being "a block or two from campus." Unhappily, a block or two is all that is left of our residential community.

All other arguments aside, this university has not met the negotiated commitment it made to the city and the community. Rather, it

FOGGY BOTTOM ASSOCIATION MEETING

All Residents Welcome

Guest Speaker:

Jeffrey J. Sherman

Trammell Crow Company

Monday, October 27, 2003 The Melrose Hotel 2430 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

7:30 p.m.

(Next meeting: Monday, November 24, 2003)

Becker Beat



Had the Right, But Was It Right?

On Saturday, August 23, the George Washington University hosted a welcoming party for its new medical school class in the 2300 block of I Street, and barred all pedestrians from using the walk-through, including the handicapped entrance to the Foggy Bottom Metro station. Security guards forced pedestrians to walk an extra two blocks (via 23rd Street and New Hampshire Avenue)—in 90-degree+ heat— in order to travel west from the station.

Several residents complained to university officials, citing the fact that the guards told them that GW could close the area anytime if they wanted to. In fact, the District of Columbia "closed" I Street in 1978 and conferred the block's title to the University subject to several restrictions. One such restriction reads: "The pedestrian way shall be

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designed and maintained in a manner to afford ready access for handicapped persons to the [WMATA] facilities (i.e., Metro station) abutting the closed street on the north."

GW may have the "right" to bar people from the block, but was it right to do so? It seems logical that a narrow avenue might have been roped off to let passersby use the street, especially the elderly. Truly it was not an example of GWU's loudly-touted but to many residents well-hidden "good neighbor policy."

P.S.: I was taken by Mr. Ludwig's statement (see Count and Counterpoint on page 1) that GW's off-campus residence halls "did not displace long-term residents." Yes, one (City Hall) was a popular hotel (the hotel and sales taxes from its visitors went bye-bye); but several others are apartment buildings where the students indeed did replace long-term residents. In addition private homes and buildings are increasingly housing students. Places for residents who want to make FB their permanent home are fewer and fewer. (Property, income and sales taxes from departing and potential residents went bye-bye as well).

Update, from page 1

One possible "recipient" of this new classification would be Square 37, which contains the West End Library. Residents of the Tiverton apartment house on 24th Street are working toward saving their affordable rental building from being lost to them and from the neighborhood.

James Pedas, longtime developer, owns a parking lot on the 23rd Street side of the square, and he earlier petitioned for rezoning of the south half of the block. In addition to the library and the Tiverton, other structures on the square which might be lost are the MPD Special Operations Division station and several townhouses next to the library.

ANC Files on 26th Street Proposal

In early October, ANC-2A wrote the Office of Corporation Counsel, outlining what they believe to be violations of statutory provisions by the D.C. Department of Transportation in the 26th Street matter. It offered suggestions for "positive actions" which might be taken in relation to the proposal to alter traffic on 26th Street between Pennsylvania Avenue and M Street.

DDOT proposed this summer to change the traffic in that block from one way north to two ways, at the request of Councilmember Jack Evans, mainly to benefit the employees of the Patton Boggs law firm for which he works. Residents, especially those in the Westbridge, opposed the proposal as well as the hurried process.

The ANC objected to DDOT giving less than the required 30-day comment period and DDOT's excuse that it was "important to public safety," although there "has been no

November 2003

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FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS

The Foggy Bottom News is a publication of the Foggy Bottom Association. Its 5,500 copies are distributed to residences and businesses in the Foggy Bottom and West End neighborhoods. The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the editor and writers. Their appearance here constitutes neither an endorsement nor official policy of the Foggy Bottom Association.

Editor
Ad Manager
To place ads, call Rita Champagne at 293-1439. Cost for classified ads is 60 cents per word; a 2-inch high by 2-column wide ad—the smallest

available, is \$42.00.

December issue: to be distributed November 21-22

Copy deadline: November 6; Camera-ready: November 13

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finding of a serious safety concern..." DDOT also failed to give the required notice to the ANC, and to undertake a promised compehensive traffic study of the area.

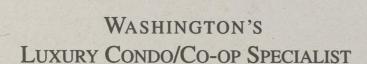
Ed. note: In light of Natwar Ghandi's recent "heads-up" about budget overspending, perhaps Jack Evans might suggest that DDOT postpone the 26th Street changes, the "comprehensive traffic study," and save the taxpayers a bunch of money!

Watergate Plans in Flux

With some confusion, the conversion of the Watergate Hotel into some form of residential housing seems to be going forward.

Several months ago the proposed developers of the hotel, Monument Realty, announced they were not going forward with plans buy the hotel. However, it appears that was a negotiating tactic of sorts. Now the current hotel owners and the proposed developers have requested the Zoning Commission to amend the Watergate Planned Unit Development allowing for hotel conversion to a residence. That meeting has been set for November 24.

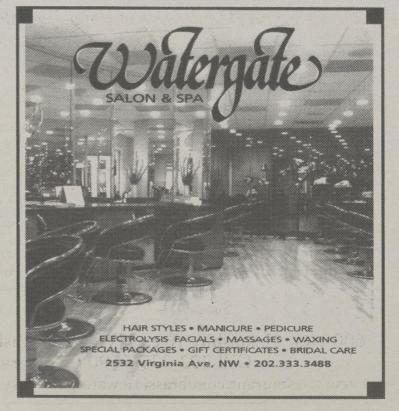
To further confuse matters the hotel issued a press release, announcing major improvement renovations to the hotel (see article elsewhere in this issue).



Susan Strehlow

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From the Council

Councilmember To Introduce AssessRx

By David A. Catania D.C. Councilmember at Large

Prescription drugs are essential to prevent and manage many illnesses. Without these medications, a person's health is inevitably compromised and treatment costs escalate. Nationwide, drug prices rise exponentially every year. To combat the runaway costs associated with prescription drugs, more than a dozen states are considering programs to stabilize those obligations.

Senior citizens are disproportionately affected by these rising drug costs. While they comprise approximately 13% of the population, seniors account for over a third of the nation's total drug expenditures. What's more, a recent survey of 19 urban areas found that uninsured D.C. residents pay 82% more than the federal government for 10 common prescription medications, second only to Baltimore.

In the coming weeks, I will introduce legislation to offer elderly and uninsured residents of the District of Columbia low-cost prescription drugs. This program will enable the District to make medications more affordable, thereby increasing the overall health of residents and promoting healthy communities.

In its current form, this



legislation establishes the AccessRx program within the Department of Health. Through AccessRx low-income elderly residents would receive medication and supplies at significantly discounted prices. The District will pay the amount of the discount using rebates it receives from drug-makers that participate in publiclysupported pharmaceutical assistance programs. AccessRx will also leverage the District's buying power under the Medicaid program to negotiate bulk discounts from drug companies.

To participate in AccessRx, D.C. residents must be at least 62 years of age and have a household income less than 200% of the Federal poverty level (\$24,240 for a household of two). Uninsured residents of any age may take part if they make less than \$42,420 and are not enrolled in an public or private medical insurance program.

I hope you will support this effort to make prescription drugs affordable for some of our most vulnerable citizens.

Court Cases Continue But Not in Supreme Court

The Supreme Court of the United States rejected the request of The George Washington University for a hearing on the university's case against the order issued by the D.C. Board of Zoning Adjustment. This ends the legal efforts in the case brought in Federal court that the order violates the civil rights of students. GWU stated that "it was not unexpected," but felt it should file the petition "because the case presents an important constitutional issue.'

However, both the BZA and GWU are continuing their efforts in the D.C. Court of Appeals. They have asked for a reconsideration of its

September 11 decision which affirmed a majority of the BZA's order but stayed several conditions. GW is claiming the order is discriminatory and has asked that the Court, among other things, to reexamine the "exclusion of the off-campus residence halls from its overall housing count...." The Corporation Counsel, on behalf of the Board of Zoning Adjustment, asked the Court to reconsider its order to send the case back to the BZA for further consideration, and to realize this case has little chance of being solved by "negotiated resolution." It also contends that the order does not discriminate against students.

26th Street Park Cleanup November 8

The fall cleanup of the 26th Street Park is set for Saturday, November 8, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Volunteers are asked to bring gloves, rakes, brooms, shovels and garden implements. Lunch, soft drinks and trash bags will be supplied. Sign up by calling 337-3731; a count is needed for food, etc. Chores include raking, sweeping, weeding, planting, etc., etc., under the direction of Bob Vogt.

This park has become a cherished spot for the few chil-

dren who use the playground, for dog-owners who congregate in the dog park while their canines run and play, and for many who enjoy sitting, and talking, and sunning, and reading, and dozing on the benches and on the grass.

The rain date is Monday, November 10, from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

DPW Schedules Leaf Collections

The D.C. Department of Public Works is again scheduling special days for the collection of leaves from D.C. residences. For our section of Ward 2 the dates are November 2 and 30. Leaves are to be out for collection by those dates, with trucks to come between November 3 and 14, and December 1 and 13.

Leaves are to be readied by (1) raking them into the curbside tree box—preferred by DPW; (2) placing bagged leaves in the tree box; or (3) placing bagged leaves at trash collection points in alleys. DPW asks that leaves NOT be raked into the street.

Citizens can be very helpful if they will remove leaves from the street gutters, especially if they clog the sewer catch basin openings. DPW plans to vacuum leaves at least twice during the leaf season, but Foggy Bottom's heavy parking makes that very difficult.

Again this year there will be a special street cleaning performed in our area between Christmas and New Year's, planned for the time when there are the fewest cars parked. So, car owners, be alerted!

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My Visit with Franklin Wint

By Elena Lobo

He greeted me with a smile and set me at ease from the moment we sat down, offering me a chair and asking me about myself. He is a gentleman who grew up in Kingston, Jamaica, after moving from White Plains, New York, due to his sickness and his parents' hesitancy to raise a child in the tensionfilled and often racially-uncomfortable America. Jamaica for him was happy and sunny; he lived a life free of discrimination and filled with enriching activities that have shaped his sense of values. In 1950 he decided he wanted to return to America, though not fully understanding the culture since he had left when he was only four. One of his mentors, so to speak, responded negatively to his desire and told him that a person of color would be automatically thrown in the servant class in America, regardless of his social status anywhere else.

Franklin refused to believe this, imaging gold coins one could pluck from the trees and a continuation of his comfortable and well-off lifestyle in Kingston. Indeed, he was met



with much discrimination and racism in American where he worked at the Library of Congress. He was treated differently, called "nigger" by women, and brought to unimaginable lows after coming from a well-respected family who had British royalty as guests in their home. He couldn't understand why even churches and graveyards were segregated, why people were so ignorant as to separate people in a place of worship. He says that people were "being crucified all over again."

I admired this man from the start, and even more so when that I found he shared my views on American "democracy" which he said was more like "hypocrisy." It was refreshing to hear an educated man talk about his dissatisfaction with the way things were, and the way many things still are now. I was interested in his ac-

tivism—quiet but powerful. He joined a group called CORE (Congress of Racial Equality) which brought together Jewish and people of color who were discriminated against. He followed the teachings of Gandhi, promoting non-violence and discouraging retaliation. "They hold the handle and you hold the blade," he said. However, in this segregation-filled city he was able to receive a certain degree of respect and privilege. He was waited on at segregated restaurants, rode on a white boat (the Mount Vernon), saw movies, went to operas and ballets, was able to enjoy the finer venues that many persons of color

He has a slight accent that could be assumed as British due to his English and Jamaican teachers who probably influenced people's treatment of him. I felt somehow understanding of Franklin, as a person of color myself who is often called "white" because of my behavior, not my skin color. We agreed that by trying to define people by color, race, backgrounds, neighborhood or profession, we are only feeding into the unfair system of race in Ameirca. It was hard for me to believe

wouldn't have been able to.

that a man who was so informed and eloquent could possibly hit that glass ceiling, but Franklin reminded me of how "stultifying" the situation is for people of color.

Not only did I learn about this experience as a man of color in America during the 50s, 60s and up until now, he taught me much about history that I found very interesting. Franklin told me about the hidden fact of Haiti's pivotal role in American independence. He told me of how they slaughtered an entire British army in Savannah, Georgia, donated troops and food to our country, were so willing to help us. What American history textbook would include that? However, it is something we should all know. He told me of how, because of racial reasons and Virginia being a slave state, Washington, D.C. was basically gutted as they removed movie theaters, concert halls, banks, parks, ice skating rinks, etc. He was warned never to call a fire department if there was a fire; they would do more damage than the actual fire would. As far as I'm concerned, D.C. is still recovering.

I learned that Hitler was planning to annex Jamaica and take advantage of its proximity to the Panama Canal, that even in a small island such as Jamaica there was so much movement in relation to World War II. He had family friends that were German spies, but they didn't know until they had been found out. There were German barricades and rationed trade goods. People from all

over the world came to live in Kingston—China, Syria, Africa, Lebanon, and India are among them.

It was from this exposure to cultures and worldly views that he came to appreciate people for their differences and see life with an open mind. Franklin told me that the most valuable lesson he could give me was to "keep an open mind." He told me to embrace all ethnicities, cultures and religions, to learn from people even if their views contradicted mine, to listen and "let my intelligence sift out the garbage." Well, Franklin sure seems to have been able to do that. He has traveled and compared cultures and ultimately finds happiness in England where he found freedom and congenial people as opposed to the more uptight and conflict-craving Americans he encountered here.

We are growing up in a world that is rapidly changing. As young people growing up at such a time, it is important for us to be interested in and involved in learning about the history of our country and its people. Franklin Wint is a man who could provide valuable insight and information to any young person such as myself who is hungry for information on how and why the childhoods of past generations are so different from ours today.

The author was a student at Georgetown Day School when she wrote this profile as part of a school project. Mr. Wint is a resident of St. Mary's

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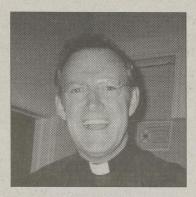
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Newman & St. Stephen's Welcomes Fr. McGrath

The new chaplain at the GWU Newman Catholic Center is Reverend Lancelot McGrath, who also serves at St. Stephen Martyr Church. Father McGrath, a native of Limerick, Ireland, comes to Foggy Bottom from his most recent assignment at St. Bartholomew's Church in Bethesda.

He replaces Father Gerald Cunningham who has taken a leave of absence to attend to family matters.

Educated in Ireland, Rome, Spain and the U.S., he especially welcomes this new assignment because of the opportunity to work with young people. During his earlier assignments and travel, this segment of the population was a special interest. He also hopes that sometime in the future he may return to Africa as a missionary, a wish he has had since childhood. Incidentally, his father was also named Lancelot.

What Hughes **Mews Means**

People often ask us what Hughes Mews means. Give the clerk at a store your address, say 917 Hughes Mews—and you are almost invariably asked, "What street is it on?"

The name originated with the editor of the Foggy Bottom News, Charley Rogers, and he sometimes wishes the idea had never occurred to him. But now it's fastened on us, for Hughes Mews is the official name of our little corner of Foggy Bottom. With the consent of the other residents, Charley got the District of Columbia to do this. Formerly, though the spot was generally known as Hughes Court to postmen, delivery services, Call Carl, and cab drivers, officially it was just an alley on the city plat in the District Building.

Well, what does it mean —Hughes Mews?

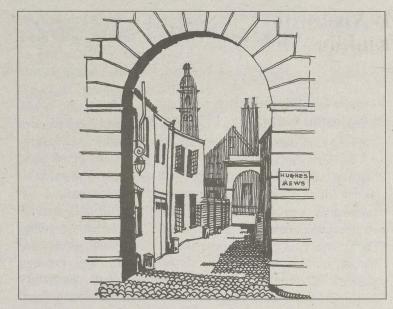
Actually, the word mews is plural for mew, but usually it is construed as singular. A mew in Middle English was a cage for hawks, especially when the birds were mewing (moulting). As early as 1377, King Richard's hawks were kept by his falconers in the Mews of Charing Cross, Westminster, but when King Henry VIII came along he had the place converted into stables for the monarch's horses. He ordered the mews (cages for moulting) removed, but he kept the name.

It was so that the mews of London came to be associated with stables, coachmen and grooms, and their families. The mews men were devoted to one pursuit, the care of horses and carriages, and the mews of London constituted a world of their own.

Charles Dickens tells us about a character whose "great room was built into a mews at back." It was Mr. Turveydrop, in Bleak House. And in Dombey and Son, Miss Tox's bedroom (which was at the back) "commanded a vista of mews."

In London today, actors and artists, poets and the literati often have their homes in mews. Sir Laurence Olivier lives in one when he is in London. As a mew in olden times was an enclosure for moulting birds, a close place of retirement or confinement, so later a mews became a cozy back street, often a culde-sac or blind alley, like Hughes Mews today.

The Mewsers This article was written when Hughes Court became Hughes Mews, accompanied by this drawing, which was labeled: "This flattering view of Hughes Mews appeared in the Foggy Bottom News when the name was first suggested. It was drawn by the art editor of the paper, Shirley Kennard, who must have re-



membered how the mews of London looked to an American artist abroad. Any resemblance to Hughes Mews, we must admit, is purely coinci-

Coates Lists September Home Sales

The listing below of September home sales is provided by Caroline Coates of Coates Realty (333-0017).

		Bed/ Sale		
Address	Bldg.	Bath	Price	Date
1140 23rd, 3rd fl.	Gibson	1/1	255,000	9/2*
2125 N		4/4	900,000	9/5*
1140 23rd, 6th fl.	Gibson	2/2	370,000	9/11
1200 23rd, 10th fl.	Westhaven	2/2	400,000	9/16
1140 23rd, 10th fl.	Gibson	2/23	65,000	9/19
1140 23rd, 4th fl.	Gibson	2/23	55,000	9/22*
2301 N, 5th fl.	Emerson	1/1	425,000	9/25
1280 21st,2nd fl.	St. George	1/1	241,500	9/30*

*These properties sold for more than the asking price.

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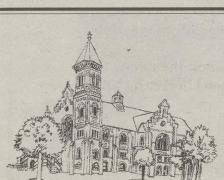


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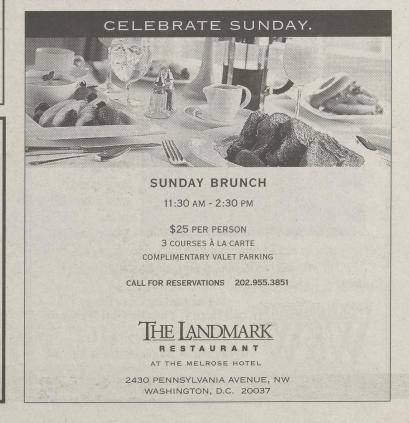
6:30 am, 8:00 am, 11:30 am, 12:10 pm, 5:30 pm 10:00 Mass only

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Critic's Corner



By Bob Anthony

French Genre Painting at National Gallery

Philip Conisbee, senior curator of European and French Paintings at the National Gallery of Art, presents a wonderfully comprehensive and stunning new exhibit, "The Age of Watteau, Chardin, and Fragonard: Masterpieces of French Genre Painting." Every work of art displays wonderful human emotions of comedy or tragedy following the theme of the painting. Simple joyful activities of hide-and-seek or picnic dances totally fill the huge canvases with extravagant flora and fauna in the background. The scenes of the dying bring forth emotional pangs of the viewer. One is constantly reminded of the plight of the revolutions and political changes sweeping the continent and the populace's need to find simple domestic joys to lighten their spirits. Particularly impressive is Claude-Joseph Vernet"s "The Shipwreck" and Jeaurat Etienne's "Village Fair" as one views different facial and body reactions to a tragic vs.

a happy scene. Each expression is unique and quite wholesome. Yes, it is one of those shows where some paintings require 20 to 60 minutes to digest the abundance of details. Even modern day photography too often relies on posing by the subjects which these painters made so natural from memory.

This is a highly recommended show. Every member of the family can find wonderful details of living and recognize that humanity doesn't change much from one era to the next. The fact that France went into financial crisis by helping Americans through our revolution has present-day political implications. Yes, it is a very stimulating historical and social trip through the 17th and 18th centuries. Of course, it has the usual wonderful catalogue as a gift to lots of coffee tables during the holidays. (To 1/11)

In recognition of the News' completion of 45 years of publication, this year we are including articles from past issues. In the last issue was a reprint of a May 1960 piece on FB's Octagon House; this time we feature Hughes Mews. The editor is proud of the paper's heritage and contributions over the years.

The Foggy Bottom Diner



By James Patterson

At Lindy's Burgers Are Special

It is Oktoberfest at Lindy's Red Lion, 2040 I Street, N.W., Foggy Bottom's friendly neighborhood pub and grill. Enjoy a jumbo bratwurst platter with sauer-kraut and spicy mustard for an affordable \$6.50. At Lindy's diners may enjoy seating near the bar, on the patio, or at street level. At the same location is Lindy's Bon Apetit, the "Best Litle Carry-Out in Washington."

Burgers are a specialty. Lindy's offers veggie, turkey or sirloin burgers with 25 different toppings, \$5 for a burger or \$7 for a double. There are also 17 different sub sandwiches priced at \$6.

Happy hour begins at 4:00 p.m. with \$8 pitchers of select beers. There are many inexpensive finger foods on the menu including wings, cheese sticks, fries, nachos, chicken fingers, all priced around \$5.

Weekend brunch is 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. when the

breakfast special runs at \$4.50. Omelets are made to order at \$6. Eggs are also made to order.

Lindy's is not only for GW students. Long-time Foggy Bottom residents are frequently seen at the carry-out. Lindy's is also popular with State Department employees wanting a quick meal after work.

At times things can get a little noisy at the restaurant with loud music. Diners can watch sports events from wall-mounted TVs. Service is generally quick and courte-ous. Lindy's allows smoking, which is a problem to me; however, I can usually find a good seat downwind of smokers.

In sum, Lindy's is a great place to eat affordable food in an enjoyable atmosphere. Stop by Lindy's soon.

HPRB, from page 1 great harm to the fine original architectural design, nearly unanimously approved by our community in three public meetings, this Board continues to delay and endanger this desirable project.

At the first meeting many months ago, the Chair would not even listen to ANC Commissioner Price and others because "the Board's scope of review was very limited." Where are those limitations now?

Jeffrey Sherman of Trammell Crow, the somewhat weary manager of this project, will speak at the FBA meeting on October 27.

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Watergate Hotel to "Revert" to Former Glory

The management of the Watergate Hotel has announced that it will begin to restore it to its "former preeminence among Washington hotels." The recent plans to convert the premises to residential apartments evidently have been shelved, "but the company is continuing the entitlement process in order to keep such options available."

Blackstone Real Estate Advisors, the current owners, have named Michael Spamer as general manager. A restaurant called Aquarelle will replace Jeffrey's, and be under the supervision of Robert Faure. The new chef is Christophe Poteaux, and he will offer international cuisine with a Mediterranean influence.

In addition, extensive remodeling is planned for the rooftop entertainment venue and to the meeting rooms.

Letters

Greatest of Joy

Thank you for a wonderful September issue of he Foggy Bottom News. Not only did you "bless" St. Mary's Court, but your article brought the greatest of joy to Cathy Miller!

> Marifran Langvardt St. Mary's Court

Help with Library Hours

Could the Foggy Bottom News devote one column inch to publishing the library hours each month [or at least often]? I can never remember when they open late.

Sue Bosma 26th Street

Ed. note: Good idea, and thanks for the suggestion. The new hours for the West End Library are as follows:

Monday & Wednesday:

1:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday:

9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Friday & Sunday Closed

On the third Tuesday of each month at noon, the WEL's Book Club meets. All are welcome.

Neighborhood Datebook

Monday, October 27: Steve Ross, the "Crown Prince of Cabaret," celebrates the City of Paris, with songs by Porter, Kern, Berlin, Arlen, Hammerstein, Lerner, and Loewe, as well as Parisians Charles Trenet and Jacques Brel. Also featured will be songs from "Gigi" and Edith Piaf melodies. \$25; members \$20. Corcoran Gallery of Art. 7:00 p.m.**

Monday, October 27: Foggy Bottom Association meeting, featuring Jeffrey Sherman of Trammell Crow Company, the developer of the Columbia Hospital condo project, with an update on construction plans. Melrose Hotel, 2430 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. All residents are encouraged and welcome to attend. 7:30 p.m.*

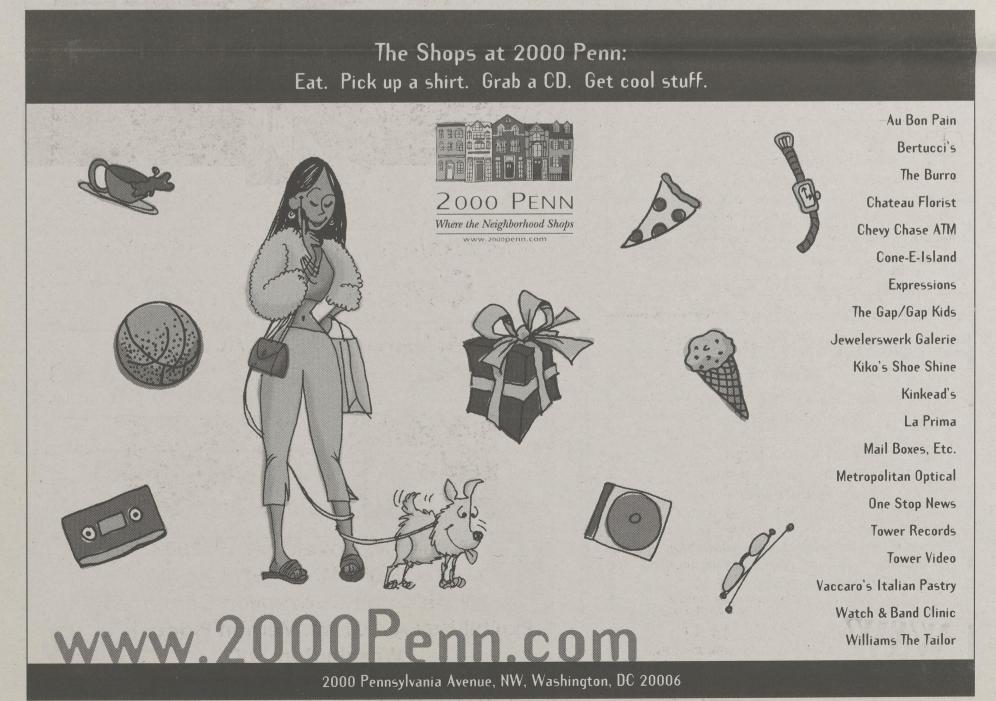
Wednesday, October 29: "Gastric Bypass: Long-Term Weight Loss," describing the benefits, risks, recovery and anticipated results of this procedure. Presented by Paul Lin, M.D., Assistant Professor, Surgery & Surgical Oncology, and Juliet Lee, M.D., Assistant Professor of Surgery. GW Hospital auditorium. 7:00-8:30 p.m. #

Thursday, October 30: Public Information Meeting on Kennedy Center Access Improvements proposal and recently published environmental assessment. The EA evaluates the impacts of a no action alternative and two build alternatives, including a deck/plaza over the Potomac Freeway, a pedestrian link to the riverfront, and pedestrian, bikeway and roadway improvements. Comments due by November 10. Grand Foyer, Kennedy Center, 2700 F Street, N.W. 5:00-8:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 30: The Wagner Society of Washington, D.C. presents a lecture by the dramaturg of the New York City Opera, Cori Ellison, entitled "A Ride with the Valkyries."

To next page





The talk will explore what Valkyries are and why they have imprinted themselves so enduringly on our culture. (The Washington Opera is presenting the Wagner opera in November.) Info: 301-907-2600. Funger Hall, 2201 G Street, N.W. 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 1: Barbershop All Year 'Round "Songs for Each Season," the 57th Annual Harvest of Harmony. Presented by the D.C. Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society. \$10-15. Info: 994-6800. Lisner Auditorium, 730 21st Street, N.W. 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 5: Concert, with reception, by Marija Temo, classical and flamenco guitarist and singer. \$30; members \$25. Corcoran Gallery of Art. 7:00 p.m.**

Wednesday, November 5: "Back Pain and Back Surgery," outlining back pain's origin, its management, and when to consider surgery. Presented by Warren Yu, M.D., Assistant Professor of Orthopedic Surgery. GW Hospital auditorium. 7:00-8:30 p.m. #

Wednesday-Sunday, November 5-9: "The Apple Tree" by Jerry Bock and Sheldon, songwriting team of "Fiddler on the Roof." Three one-act musicals "about men, women and a little thing called temptation "presented by GW Theatre & Dance and Music departments. Tickets: 432-7328. Marvin Theatre, 800 21st Street, N.W. 7:30 p.m.; Sunday at 2:00 p.m.

Thursday, November 6: Flu shots available at St. Mary's Court, 725 24th Street, N.W., sponsored by IONA Senior Services. \$20 charge; Medicare B will be billed for those who have that coverage. 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon.

Friday, November 7: Opening reception for the "Towers and Bridges" exhibit of "urbanscapes" by Foggy Bottom artist Bill D'Italia. Watergate Gallery, 2552 Virginia Avenue, N.W. Show continues to November 30. 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 8: 26th Street Park Planting and Cleanup Day, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Volunteers call 337-3731 (need count for refreshments). 900 block of 26th Street. Rain date: Monday, November 10, 5:00-7:00 p.m.*

Saturday, November 8: Annual Fall Bazaar, featuring original fall and Christmas items, white elephant sales, a bake sale, and a delicious lunch available. Info: 333-3985. Donations of white elephant sale items gratefully accepted prior to

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November 3, and bake sale items November 6 or 7. St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 728 23rd Street, N.W. 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Sunday, November 9: Concert featuring "Jazz Vespers" performed by Band du Soleil, composed of a pianist, trumpeter and horn player. The United Church, 20th & G Streets, N.W. Info: 331-1495. Free will offering will be requested. 3:00 p.m.

Tuesday-Thursday, November 11-13: International Arts and Crafts Fair, featuring unique crafts from around the world, as well as gourmet lunches. Sponsored by Margaret McNamara Memorial Fund for education grants for women from developing countries. Info: 473-8751. World Bank H Auditorium, 600 19th Street, N.W. 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Thursday, November 13: Zoning Commission hearing on establishing regulations concerning High Density Residential Retail Overlay Districts, which arose during hearings on potential rezoning of Square 37. Zoning Hearing Room, #220, 441 Fourth. Street, N.W. (Judiciary Square Metro). 6:30 p.m.*

Thursday, November 13: Concert, GW University Band and Wind Ensemble. Info: 994-6800. Lisner Auditorium, 730 21st Street, N.W. 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 15: "Singing and Swinging" concert, featuring singer-pianist Patti Wicks, with bassist Keter Betts, featuring familiar and forgotten gems from the Great American Songbook. \$20; members \$15. Corcoran Gallery of Art. 7:00 p.m.**

Wednesday-Saturday, November 19-22: "Danceworks," featuring guest choreographer Jennifer Nugent and GW faculty. Tickets: 432-7328. Marvin Theatre, 800 21st Street, N.W. 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, November 20: Robert Prosky, Tony- and Emmy-winning actor and "undoubtedly Washington's favorite actor," will speak, include clips of some of his favorite roles, and answer questions from the audience. \$25; members \$20. Corcoran Gallery of Art. 7:00 p.m.**

Sunday, November 23: Concert, GW University Symphony Orchestra. Info: 994-6800. Lisner Auditorium, 730 21st Street, N.W. 6:00 p.m.

Through Wednesday, November 26: Third Annual Student Show. Dimock Gallery, 730 21st Street (lower level). Tues-Thur. 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.; Fri . 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Monday, November 24: Board of Zoning Adjustment hearing on conversion of the Watergate Hotel to residential condominium use. Zoning Hearing Room, Room 220, 441 Fourth Street, N.W. (Judiciary Square Metro). 6:30 p.m.

Monday, November 24: Foggy Bottom Association meeting, with representatives of the Kennedy Center discussing its building projects. Melrose Hotel, 2430 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. 7:30 p.m.

* See article elsewhere in this issue.

** 500 17th Street, N.W. Info: 639-1770.

900 23rd Street, N. W. Info: 1-888-4GW-DOCS.

Foggy Bottom Folks

The very busy Elizabeth Elliott, FBA Board member and former ANC Chair, took some time out in October for a bit of surgery. Word is that she did slow down just a little to recuperate and that all is well.

Penny Cornett, a local real estate agent who lived on 25th Street, has moved to a newly-purchased home in the southwest section of D.C. During a recent conversation she said she regretted leaving Foggy Bottom but feels her new neighborhood will provide many of the advantages she found living here.

Kudos to Gary Griffith and the West End Guide on its first anniversary, and for the great profile in the October issue on Blackie Auger. If ever there was a restaurant legend in our area, Blackie is just that. It is heartening to see his continuing success, and to see his talented progeny carrying on his tradition.

In this issue is a profile of Franklin Wint of St. Mary's Court. On the occasion of the St. Mary's Court Brunch and Bazaar, he won tickets to a Redskins game in November. At the same event FBN's Rita Champagne won a prize donated by the Sizzling Express in Columbia Plaza. To make a long story short, the two prizes were traded, the food prize to Mr. Wint and the tickets to Rita. The surprising end to the story is that Rita coincidentally sold the tickets to Young Oh, the manager of Sizzling Express, and gave the proceeds back to St. Mary's Court.

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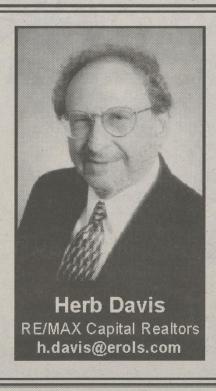
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